

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

VIENNA AND GENEVA FOR MBFR AND CSCE

INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGED
GREEK DISORDERS; SUNDAY BALTSUN FRONTPAGED MULTIWARHEAD
SNAGS SALT. INSIDE PAPERS HAVE VIENNA STORIES ON TROOP
CUTS; OTHER INSIDE HEADLINES WERE: US SOVIETS AGREE ON
POLLUTION EFFORT; OIL EMBARGO THREATENS UNITY OF ATLANTIC
ALLIES; SOVIET AIRCRAFT CARRIERS STIR CONCERN; PENTAGON
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DENIES PLANNING OPEN-AIR NERVE GAS TEST.

2. VIENNA STORIES. FRIDAY WASHSTAR-NEWS UPI REPORTED
WARSAW PACT AT MBFR HAS PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR EAST-WEST

MILITARY REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE BEGINNING WITH 20,000-MAN CUTBACK BY BOTH SIDES IN 1975, ACCORDING INFORMED SOURCES. THE SOURCES, CLOSE TO MBFR, SAID WARSAW PACT HAD PROPOSED THAT INITIAL 20,000 MAN CUTBACK IN 1975 BE FOLLOWED BY 5 PERCENT REDUCTION OF NATO AND WARSAW PACT FORCES IN 1976, AND FURTHER 10 PERCENT REDUCTION IN 1977. SPOKESMAN FOR SOVIET DELEGATION CONFIRMED PROPOSAL HAD BEEN MADE BUT REFUSED TO GIVE DETAILS. PROPOSED CUTBACKS WOULD INCLUDE BOTH SOVIET AND US TROOPS STATIONED IN CENTRAL

EUROPE AS WELL AS NATIONAL FORCES, SOURCES SAID. COMMUNIST PROPOSAL FOR EQUAL CUTBACKS BY EACH SIDE RUNS COUNTER TO WESTERN ARGUMENT THAT WARSAW PACT SHOULD MAKE NUMERICALLY LARGER CUTS THAN NATO TO ELIMINATE EAST'S MILITARY SUPERIORITY IN CENTRAL EUROPE. ACCORDING TO INDEPENDENT INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES, NATO GROUND FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE TOTAL 777,000 MEN COMPARED TO 871,000 WARSAW PACT TROOPS.

2A. SUNDAY WASHPOST HOMAN REPORTED MOSCOW TROOP CUT PROPOSAL WAS MADE KNOWN THROUGH CAREFUL AND DELIBERATE SOVIET LEAK AND CONFIRMED BY NATO SOURCES WHO WERE CRITICAL OF WHAT THEY DESCRIBED AS BREACH OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF MBFR DISCUSSIONS. USING FIGURES OF INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES AS BASE, IMPLEMENTATION OF SOVIET PLAN WOULD REDUCE NATO FORCES BY ABOUT 120,000 TO 657,000 WHILE SOVIET BLOC CUTBACK WOULD TOTAL SOME 143,000 LEAVING IT WITH ABOUT 728,000. SOVIET PROPOSAL DEALS ONLY WITH GROUND TROOPS AND IGNORES QUESTION OF WEAPONS, AN AREA IN WHICH WARSAW PACT HAS CLEAR SUPERIORITY. TAKEN BY ITSELF, WESTERN OBSERVER SAID, PROPOSAL WOULD SEEM TO BE "HIGHLY INCOMPLETE." WESTERN OFFICIALS WHILE DEPLORING SOVIET LEAK, HAVE DECIDED TO PLAY DOWN POSSIBLE IMPORTANCE OF MOSCOW POSITION; CHARACTERIZING IT AS MERELY AN EARLY BARGAINING MOVE IN TALKS. ONE WESTERN SOURCE SAW IT AS POSSIBLE ATTEMPT TO PROD NATO OUT OF DELIBERATE PACE

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THAT IT CONSIDERS NECESSARY FOR COMPLEX NEGOTIATIONS, AND ANOTHER SUGGESTED IT WAS AN EFFORT TO WIN PUBLIC APPROVAL FOR SOVIET POSITION. US SOURCE SAID WHILE NATO WAS PERTURBED BY POSSIBILITY THAT THERE HAD BEEN LEAK, IT COULD NOT CONSIDER INCIDENT A CHALLENGE TO "GO PUBLIC" WITH ITS SIDE OF NEGOTIATIONS.

2B. MONDAY BALTSUN REUTER REPORTS SOVIETS WANT 11 NATIONS TO MAKE SYMBOLIC FIRST CUTS IN GRADED CENTRAL EUROPEAN TROOP REDUCTION PROGRAM, WARSAW PACT SOURCES SAID YESTERDAY. THE PROPOSED THREE YEAR CUTBACK WOULD ENCOMPASS NUCLEAR AND AIR FORCE UNITS AS WELL AS GROUND FORCES. QUALIFIED WARSAW PACT SOURCES SAID SOVIET PROPOSAL WOULD BE "FURTHER ELABORATED" AT MBFR WHICH

BEGINS FOURTH WEEK OF TWICE-WEEKLY PLENARY SESSIONS TOMORROW. SOURCES SAID RUSSIA SPEAKING FOR MAIN WARSAW PACT NATIONS WANTS CUTS TO BE PROPORTIONAL ACCORDING TO SIZE OF NATIONAL AND STATIONED ARMED FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE. THIS MEANS RUSSIA WITH 430,000 MEN IN AREA AND US WITH 190,000 MEN WOULD MAKE BIGGEST CUTS DURING EACH STAGE. BRITISH AND CANADIAN TROOPS STATIONED IN WEST GERMANY WOULD BE REDUCED PROPORTIONATELY. US, SOVIET,

BRITISH AND CANADIAN FORCES WITHDRAWN FROM CENTRAL EUROPE WOULD BE RETURNED TO THEIR OWN COUNTRIES TOGETHER WITH THEIR WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT. PROPORTIONAL REDUCTIONS WOULD ALSO BE MADE AT EACH STAGE BY THE SEVEN COUNTRIES SITUATED IN CENTRAL EUROPE: WEST AND EAST GERMANY, BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS, LUXEMBOURG, POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. IN CASE OF THESE SEVEN "CORE" COUNTRIES, STORY SAYS, TROOPS WITHDRAWN FROM NATO OR WARSAW PACT COMMANDS WOULD BE DEMOBILIZED. COMMUNIST SOURCES SAID RUSSIA VISUALIZES SYSTEM OF TRADE-OFF REDUCTIONS ON UNIT-BY-UNIT BASIS. ACCORDING REUTER, TWO SIDES WOULD AGREE TO BALANCED REDUCTIONS SO THAT EXTRA WARSAW PACT UNIT WOULD BE MATCHED BY WITHDRAWAL OF NATO UNIT OF SIMILAR SIZE AND POWER. AT EACH STAGE UNITS NAMED FOR WITHDRAWAL WOULD TAKE WITH THEM ALL WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT.

3. SALT. SATURDAY WASHPOST SQUIB REPORTED FROM GENEVA SALT TALKS SUSPENDED FOR ONE MONTH, ACCORDING INFORMED UNCLASSIFIED

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SOURCES; AMERICAN SOURCES SAID NEGOTIATORS FOR BOTH SIDES NEEDED NEW INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS.

3A. SUNDAY BALTSUN WASHINGTON KEAT REPORTED US OFFICIALS HAVE DISCLOSED THAT US BARGAINING POSITION FOR SALT HAS BEEN OVERTAKEN BY SOVIET MISSILE DEVELOPMENTS, LEAVING BOTH SIDES WITHOUT NEGOTIABLE POSITIONS. SOVIET ADVANCES IN DEVELOPING MULTIPLE WARHEADS, SAID KEAT, HAVE OUTDATED PROPOSAL PREPARED BY US LAST SPRING, AND SOVIET NEGOTIATORS IN GENEVA HAVE NOT YET FORMULATED A BARGAINING POSITION. KEAT REPORTED OFFICIALS SAID PATTERN TO BE FOLLOWED IN SALT TWO WILL PROBABLY FOLLOW SALT ONE PATTERN WHICH WAS FOR KISSINGER TO HOLD PRIVATE ALKS WITH DOBRYNIN IN WASHINGTON TO REACH AGREEMENT ON BROAD LINES OF TREATY, WITH DETAILS WORKED OUT BY NEGOTIATORS IN GENEVA, BUT TWO DIPLOMATS HAVEN'T YET REACHED AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLES AND NEITHER SIDE HAS THOUGHT THROUGH THE HIGHLY COMPLEX PROBLEM OF REGULATING MIRVS WHERE NUMBERS OF LAUNCHERS ARE LESS IMPORTANT THAN QUALITY OF WEAPONS BUT IT IS HOPED KISSINGER DOBRYNIN WILL WORK OUT BARGAINING FRAMEWORK BY LATE NEXT MONTH.

4. CARRIERS. MONDAY NYTIMES MIDDLETON NEW YORK SAYS A

SECOND SOVIET CARRIER IS BEING BUILT ON BLACK SEA AND US
BRITISH INTELLIGENCE SOURCES REPORT RUSSIANS PLAN TO
CONSTRUCT CARRIERS OF ANOTHER, LARGER CLASS AS PART OF
THEIR EXPANDING NAVAL PROGRAM. MIDDLETON SAYS NAVAL
SOURCES IN WASHINGTON LONDON FEEL RUSSIANS ARE MOVING FROM

A FLEET BUILT TO FRUSTRATE AMERICAN OPERATIONS TO ONE
CAPABLE OF PROJECTING SOVIET POWER ACROSS THE OCEANS OF
THE WORLD. ACCORDING MIDDLETON, AMERICAN NAVAL
AUTHORITIES ARE ESPECIALLY WORRIED BECAUSE SOVIET DEVELOP-
MENT IS COMING AT TIME WHEN US NAVAL IS ELIMINATING OLDER
SHIPS AND WAITING FOR NEW ONES. RUSH

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